

**The Greatest Gift After Salvation: Holiness** One of the most profound gifts God grants a believer—after salvation—is holiness. This is not just a change in status but an invitation into the very character of God. Holiness is not merely moral cleanliness; it is the state of being set apart, blameless, and spiritually pure—just as God Himself is.

But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.

1 Peter 1:15-16 (ESV)

## What Is Holiness?

Holiness is being made perfect in the sight of God—without spot, without wrinkle, and without sin. It is a complete internal and external transformation that aligns a believer with God's nature.

In the Old Testament, holiness was something to be pursued through obedience to the Law. But no one could fully achieve it:

None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God.

Romans 3:10-11 (ESV)

## Holiness Through Christ: A New Covenant Reality

Under the New Covenant, something radical happens. When we believe in Jesus Christ, we are declared holy by faith—not by our works. This is called imputed righteousness.

And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

1 Corinthians 1:30 (ESV)

This declaration is an act of grace. You are set apart for God, cleansed by the blood of Jesus—not because of your performance, but because of Christ's perfect work on the cross.

For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Hebrews 10:14 (ESV)

### From Positional to Practical Holiness

However, God's intention is not that we simply be positionally holy (declared holy), but also practically holy (living holy). In other words, we are called not only to be called saints, but to live as saints.

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Hebrews 12:14 (ESV)

Just as a soldier who is promoted must undergo training to match his new rank, a believer must submit to God's sanctifying process—through

His Word, prayer, fasting, and obedience—so that their lifestyle reflects their new identity in Christ.

### Illustration: A Lesson from the Police Force

A few years ago, a police officer in our country was praised for rejecting a large bribe. His courage and integrity earned him a promotion. However, he later refused to attend the required training for his new rank, assuming that the promotion itself was sufficient. As a result, he was demoted.

This is a powerful image of what happens when Christians refuse to grow in holiness. God has called us, justified us, and even glorified us in Christ (Romans 8:30). But if we don't walk in that calling—if we refuse to be transformed—then we dishonor the grace given to us.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:12-13 (ESV)

## The Danger of Stagnation

You can't claim to be saved while your life remains unchanged. If your lifestyle today looks exactly like it did before you met Christ, you may not have truly encountered Him. Salvation produces fruit.

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

True holiness is marked by visible change:

If you used to gamble, you now live by faith and stewardship.

If you wore immodest clothing, you now dress with dignity and honor.

If you practiced skin bleaching to conform to worldly beauty, you now find your identity in Christ.

If you gossiped, you now speak words of life.

If you wasted time on vain entertainment, you now seek God's presence.

If you were dishonest in business, you now walk in integrity.

If you never prayed or fasted, you now cultivate spiritual disciplines.

These are not the requirements for salvation, but the evidence of salvation.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

James 1:22 (ESV)

## A Call to Repentance and Renewal

God is calling you not just to believe but to be transformed. These are the last days, and Christ's return is near.

The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Romans 13:12 (ESV)

What will you say to God if you reject the salvation He offers freely today?

If you are ready to turn your life around, repent of your sins, and walk in holiness, the Lord will not turn you away. He is ready to fill you with the Holy Spirit and lead you into the fullness of your calling.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9 (ESV)

Are You Ready?

If you're ready to surrender your life to Jesus and begin walking in true holiness, follow this guided Prayer of Repentance:

□ [PRAYER OF REPENTANCE GUIDE]

May the Lord bless you and keep you, and may He finish the good work He began in you.

— Philippians 1:6 (ESV)

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